

TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION OF SULPHUR UPON THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

FEBRUARY 18, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. DRIVER, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 4120]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4120) to promote the production of sulphur upon the public domain, having considered the same, report it to the House with the recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

Page 1, lines 7 and 8, strike out the words "situated within the State of Louisiana."

Page 1, line 11, strike out the period at the end of the line, insert a colon, and add the following: "*Provided further*, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands in San Bernardino County, Calif."

This bill is necessary in order to enable the Government to develop the mining of sulphur, with an exception to exclude San Bernardino County, Calif., by reason of the known deposits of said place and necessary legislation authorizing such development in said place. While the bill is general in its nature, and should be, in order to avoid the necessity of future legislation in the event of the discovery of sulphur deposits on the public domain, its purpose is to enable the Interior Department to develop the mining of sulphur in the State of Louisiana, where deposits are found in considerable quantities at a depth of from 500 to 900 feet under the surface, and the only State in the Union where such known deposits exist, with the exception of Texas, which State contains no public land. The mining laws are construed strictly by the department, and permits for exploration and development are only granted for such minerals as are expressly mentioned under the terms of the general law, and which does not include sulphur. The further objection is that in the area which is authorized under the general law a 20-acre limit is

placed on the lands to be acquired under lease. The value of the sulphur and the expense incident to mining the same are such that successful operation and development can not be conducted within such limited holding, and therefore, for the purpose of inducing persons to make proper and necessary development of the Louisiana sulphur deposits, as well as such deposits as may be hereafter discovered elsewhere, if any, this bill is prepared, carrying with it a provision for sufficient extent of territory to justify, in the opinion of the Interior Department and those conversant with the necessities for the development of such mineral, an area sufficient to successfully develop the mining of the property.

The following is a report of the Senate committee and contains a letter from the Secretary of the Interior:

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4120) to promote the production of sulphur upon the public domain, having considered the same, reports thereon favorably with the following amendments:

On page 1, line 7, after the words "United States," insert the following: "Situated within the State of Louisiana."

On page 2, line 1, after the word "further," strike out the words: "That the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands in San Bernardino County, Calif."

The committee recommends this bill do pass.

The recommendations of the Department of the Interior are indicated by the report submitted by them, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 4, 1925.

Hon. EDWIN F. LADD,

*Chairman Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,
United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR LADD: I have your request for report on S. 4120, a bill "to promote the production of sulphur upon the public domain."

I find no objection to the enactment of the bill.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

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